



Dgroup Discussion Guide for December 9, 2018 True Goals

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:9

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Our life goal should be: TO PLEASE HIM. This should be our ambition. True Success means: *Becoming all that God wants you to be and doing all that He wants you to do and hearing Him say "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.* To have true success in life is to please God.

It pleases God when a sinner comes to the saving knowledge of the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It pleases God when a person who comes to faith in Christ commits to do everything that God asks him to do. So that in the end we will receive the award similar to the faithful servant.

This is a reality. We work hard for the rewards we want to receive. Why then should our spiritual life be any different? We should also work hard to obey God's commands, work hard to follow the footsteps of Jesus' humility and selflessness, and work hard to live a life pleasing to God. Knowing full well that when the day times we will be received in God's kingdom with the words "Well done good and faithful servant." This we do in faith. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that ***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*** Verse 6 continues to say ***and without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

God is a rewarder. He Himself tells us in Psalm 37:4 ***Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*** But this does not mean that we should pursue a relationship with God on the basis of the rewards we expect to be given. We should continue to pursue a personal relationship with God because that in itself is a reward. To live a life with God's present constantly felt. To know Him and to please Him is our reward. The other rewards are merely bonuses.

Let us strive to pursue God by doing everything He wants us to do. Jesus Himself told us in John 14:23-24 ***Jesus answered and said to him, if anyone love me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.***

God's love language is OBEDIENCE. It is not being active in ministry. It is obedience to His Word, obedience to His commands. It is when we obey Him that we begin to develop intimacy with God. God's measure of our love for Him is not what we do for His church, nor how much good works we have performed. . . ultimately He will ask: Have you obeyed all My commands?

In Matthew 28:18-20 ***And Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***

This is our marching order, the Great Commission given to all His followers. We were not called merely to become a disciple, merely to be baptized or even just to teach. It is important to further clarify. . . We are to make disciples of all those people we have shared the Gospel with, we are to instill in them the Word of God but furthermore we are to hold each other accountable in our obedience to all God's commands. Knowing and memorizing God's Word is not enough, we have to be able to live it out in our lives. We have to be able to obey all of His commands in our life.

The Christian life is not just a walk in the park. It is in fact a race, a marathon where there is a coveted prize at the finish line. 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27 emphasizes to us ***Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.*** The Apostle Paul reminds us that we need help in order to be able to OBEY ALL. We need each other to hold each other accountable for the life we live. Furthermore, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:31 ***Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.*** We should live our lives with the sole purpose to please God by obeying all and giving Him the most glory. And our ultimate coveted prize is the presence of Jesus in our lives.

We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 5:10 that ***for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*** Our salvation is secured. Secured and paid for by Jesus Christ. But our rewards are still to be accounted for. Whatever we do in this life, whether good or bad, we will be held accountable for.

We have many worthwhile goals or pursuits in our life. And while all of these are also important, we have to place emphasis on the ultimate goal which as Christians, we should strive more to achieve. Our success as a Christian will be measured by how much we have obeyed God's commands and how well we have lived this out in our life. Let us like Paul ***press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*** It is only when we intentionally live a life pleasing to God that we will receive the words "***Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.***"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Are you being disciplined? Are you discipling your spouse? Your children? Your parents?
2. What are the commands that you are able to obey? What are the commands that you still have to obey?
3. Are you intentional in living a life that is pleasing to God? What are ways you can do this?